

# What is a Conservation District?

Conservation Districts identify and address natural resource concerns in local communities, and coordinate public and private resources to meet local needs on a grassroots level. A Conservation District is a division of state government established under state law to conserve and wisely manage resources.

There are 14 Conservation Districts in Massachusetts, corresponding with each of the 14 counties across the state. Each District is governed by a board of locally elected citizens who volunteer their time and leadership. The Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) gives one voice to the Districts. [www.maacd.org](http://www.maacd.org)

Each Conservation District is a voice for their local community, providing leadership on conservation issues and establishing priorities for conservation projects. Conservation Districts partner with state and federal agencies to deliver needed programs, education and technical assistance to their communities.



Conservation Districts were established over 70 years ago during the Dust Bowl in response to the menace of soil erosion. With the onset of severe drought in the 1930's, Congress created state soil Conservation Districts and the Soil Conservation Service (now called NRCS) to provide landowners with techniques to conserve and protect their resources. The first Conservation District in Massachusetts was founded in 1945.

# Contact Us

Massachusetts Association of  
Conservation Districts  
[www.maacd.org](http://www.maacd.org)

## **Berkshire Conservation District**

78 Center Street, Suite 206  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
413-443-1776 Ext. 102  
[www.berkshireconservation.org](http://www.berkshireconservation.org)

## **Bristol Conservation District**

P.O. Box 475, 84 Center  
Street  
Dighton, MA 02715  
508-669-6612 Ext. 2  
[www.bristolcd.org](http://www.bristolcd.org)

## **Cape Cod Conservation District**

P.O. Box 678  
Barnstable, MA 02630  
508-771-8757  
[www.capecodcd.org](http://www.capecodcd.org)

## **Dukes Conservation District**

P.O. Box 111  
West Tisbury, MA 02575  
508-645-9734

## **Essex Conservation District**

60 Herrick Street  
Beverly, MA 01915  
979-921-8508

## **Franklin Conservation District**

55 Federal Street, Room 290  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
413-772-0384 Ext. 110

## **Hampden and Hampshire Conservation Districts**

195 Russell Street, Suite B6  
Hadley, MA 01035  
413-585-1000 Ext. 5

## **Middlesex Conservation District**

319 Littleton Road, Suite 205  
Westford, MA 01886  
978-692-9395  
[www.middlesexconservation.org](http://www.middlesexconservation.org)

## **Nantucket Conservation District**

P.O. Box 1146  
Nantucket, MA 02554  
508-228-7244

## **Norfolk Conservation District**

400 Main Street  
Walpole, MA 02018  
508-668-0995

## **Plymouth County Conservation District**

15 Cranberry Highway  
West Wareham, MA 02576  
508-295-5151 Ext. 4  
[www.plymouth.ma.nacdnet.org](http://www.plymouth.ma.nacdnet.org)

## **Suffolk Conservation District**

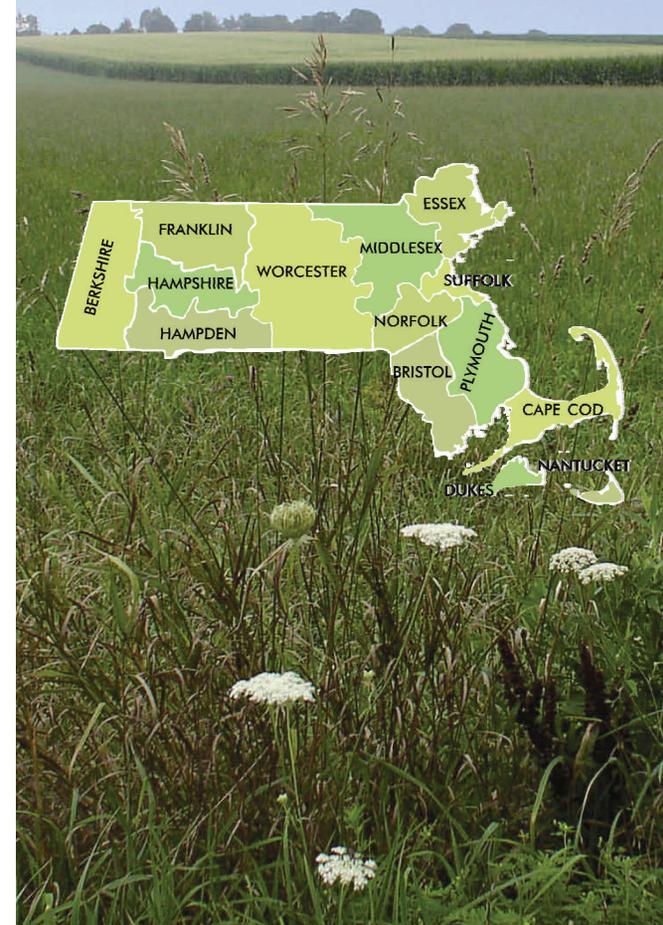
P.O. Box 190942  
Boston, MA 02119-1909  
617-442-2047

## **Worcester County Conservation District**

52 Boyden Road, Room 100  
Holden, MA 01520  
508-829-4477 Ext. 5  
[www.seedlingsale.org](http://www.seedlingsale.org)



## Working to conserve the natural resources of Massachusetts



## Tree, Shrub and Plant Sales

Massachusetts Conservation Districts hold tree and plant sales each spring. Offerings vary by District but may include: spruce, pine, birch, dogwood, sugar maple and other tree seedlings; ornamental grasses and ferns; ornamental shrubs; ground covers; potted perennials; and fruits, berries and perennial vegetables.

All items are reasonably priced and well suited for reforestation, wildlife habitat improvement and restoration and landscape ornamentation. All proceeds from these sales go to finance various activities of the Districts.



BLUEBERRY BLOSSOMS

**If you would like to receive a brochure and order form for next spring's sale, please contact your local conservation district.**

## Conservation Education

Conservation districts host forums and workshops to educate the public, landowners, environmental professionals and community leaders about a range of conservation topics.

Conservation districts sponsor Soil Evaluator's Courses, held in cooperation with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. These classes provide technical training to town health agents, private engineers and consultants for Title V certification for septic system design review and approval.



Conservation districts were instrumental in founding and continue to be involved in the annual Massachusetts Envirothon, an environmental education program and competition for high school students.



## Conservation Planning

Conservation districts provide conservation planning services to landowners in their communities. Through the accelerated Conservation Planning Project (ACPP), MACD is helping districts to improve the delivery of federal and state conservation programs. ACPP provides direct assistance to landowners in designing and installing conservation practices on their land.

## Our Partners

Conservation districts work hand-in-hand with federal and state agencies to maintain a strong conservation partnership for Massachusetts. Conservation districts work with the federal USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to deliver technical assistance for conservation management. The State Commission for Conservation of Soil, Water & Related Resources serves as a resource, helping conservation districts to focus state and federal programs for local conservation needs.